

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were examined. These claims have been replaced with new claims directed to the same invention as claims 1-8.

The new claims recite the present invention in a manner both novel and non-obvious over the applied prior art. These claims clearly restrict the invention to planographic printing.

Such processes generally involve the use of a drum or conveyor for the substrate during the printing step. In contrast, the modern ink jet processes may then be completed by curing the ink on the conveyor or drum. This is not possible with planographic processes because the curing will also occur on the surface of the drum, thus rendering it useless for further use.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected as anticipated by TOGANO GB 2142579.

Claims 4 and 7 were rejected as obvious in further view of YLITALO 6,543,890 and BAR 2003/0020795.

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected as obvious in further view of NAKANISHI 2002/0063769 and EBATA 5,485,189.

The references, taken individually or in combination, are not found to teach or suggest the combination of recited features specified by the claims.

More specifically TOGANO, YLITALO, BAR, NAKANISHI, and EBATA do not disclose an apparatus for planographic printing, as

recited. These references, do not teach or suggest a planographic printing station for forming a printed substrate from a substrate, in combination with the remaining recited elements of claim 9. That is, the references do not teach such a planographic printing station with a conveyor...; a UV ink curing station; a moving part ...; a transfer part ...; an UV irradiating part ...; and a removing part ...

Further, TOGANO, YLITALO, BAR, NAKANISHI, and EBATA do not disclose an apparatus for planographic printing, as recited, with the UV ink curing station including a vacuum bed arranged with respect to the conveyor to receive the substrate into a desired curing position upon the substrate being released from the conveyor (claim 10).

Still further, TOGANO, YLITALO, BAR, NAKANISHI, and EBATA do not disclose an apparatus for planographic printing, as recited, with nip rollers positioned at an exit of the curing station, the nip rollers configure to serve to release the substrate from the conveyor and to draw the substrate into the desired curing position (claim 11) or further comprising a thermosensor located under a UV lamp of the curing station and are adapted to deactivate the UV lamp when reaching a predetermined elevated temperature (claim 12).

Claims 13-14 are also believed patentable for the reasons outlined above.


In view of these shortcomings in the prior art, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

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